ing the use of such systems with latest digital technology in the Rural/Remote areas.

**Cellular phone system in the country**

3415. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the advantages of Cellular phone system to the overall telecom. scenario;

(b) whether it is a fact that there would be no advantage to phone subscribers in small town and rural areas; and

(c) if so, whether there is re-thinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Advantages of Cellular phone system are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir, the service will be useful in small towns also.

(c) No Sir, at present there is no rethinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones.

**Statement**

1. Subscribers of this service can communicate even when they are moving in a vehicle or located anywhere in the service area.

2. The system provides a high reliability since a landbased subscriber cable network is not necessary.

3. Executives and businessmen can keep in touch with their offices while they are located anywhere in the service area or while on move in their vehicles.

4. Since the system provides for mobile communications, it will be very useful for public utility services such as fire brigade, ambulances etc. The service will also be useful at building construction sites and other places where physical wired network is not readily available.

**STD facilities in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh**

3416. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of centres in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh which are having STD facilities;

(b) what is the number of cut of them which were provided in the year 1992-93; and

(c) what are the places that will be provided with STD facilities during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Five stations have been provided STD facility in Cuddapah district so far.

(b) Two stations have been provided STD facility till 15th March, 1993 during the year 1992-93. One more station is planned to be provided STD service by 31-3-1993.

(c) Badvel, Pulivendla, Rayachoti and Mydukur are planned to be provided STD service during 1993-94.

**Reforms in Indian Telephone Industries**

3417. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has submitted any report suggesting reform in our Indian Telephone Industries and the Hindustan Cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps that have been taken by Government to produce more Telecommunication equipment to meet our requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of both ITI and HCL the report has suggested that the Companies

should be restructured in conjuction with a dilution of public sector shareholding.

(c) Manufacture of telecommunication equipment has been delicensed and permitted in the private sector as well to meet the requirements.

**Amendment of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**

3418. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) What are the difficulties being experienced by Government in operating certain provisions of the 100 years old Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in the context of changed telecommunications scenario in the country.

(b) whether the 17 Member Committee appointed by his Ministry to review and amend the Indian Telegraph Act, has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) by when Government propose to bring a suitable legislation amending the Indian Telegraph Act, before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, the services and technology have undergone a sea change since the enactment of the Indian Telegraph Act in 1885. While there were a few telephones in the main cities and only telegraph service available for common use, now we have a large number of services e.g. telephone, telex data and fax. While lines and wires were the main mode of transmission in 1885, the present day technology offers a host of options such as microwave, optical fibre, satellite communication etc. The Act as it stands today is not capable of catering to all the aspects arising out of the widening of the scope of technology and services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The report is under consideration of the Department.

**Excess Telephone Billing in Hyderabad**

3419. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of phone subcribers in Hyderabad have been complaining of excess telephone bills;

(b) the no. of complaints of excess telephone bills which are pending with the Hyderabad Telephones; and

(c) what steps are being taken to resolve this problem satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for from the concerned unit and the same shall be placed on the Table of the House.

**Proposal to set up a Corporation like MTNL at Hyderabad**

3420. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Corporation like MTNL to administer Hyderabad Telephones; and

(b) what other proposals are under consideration for better administration of Hyderabad Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no sepecific proposal under consideration for Hyderabad Telephones separately.